

DETAILED ACTION

This application was transferred from an examiner who retired from the USPTO.

Continued Examination under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 10/22/2010 has been entered.
2. Claims 1, 6, 7, 9, 20, 21, 24 and 26 are amended.
3. Claims 2-5, 8, 10-13, 16-19 and 25 are canceled.
4. Claims 1, 6, 7, 9, 14, 15, 20, 21-24 and 26 are remaining in the application.

Examiner's Amendment

5. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The phrase “the deck plate” is changed to read **-- a deck plate --** in line 2 of claims 1, 24 and 26.

The phrase **-- and configured to minimize loss of deck strength --** has been added after **“therebelow,”** on line 6 of claim 1, on line 4 of claim 9, on line 6 of claim 21, on line 7 of claim 24, and on line 6 of claim 26.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Joseph Catanzaro on 11/4/2010.

Reasons for Allowance

6. The Rule 132 Affidavit of applicant has been considered.
7. Claims 1, 6, 7, 9, 14, 15, 20, 21-24 and 26 are allowed based on the following examiner's amendment.
8. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art does not teach, suggest or disclose the recited marine vessel or system for fluid storage for transport having a plurality of separate liquid cargo tanks located below a deck plate and including a plurality of elongated slots or apertures in the deck plate that are configured to minimize loss of deck strength and communicate with the tank below and, and are within, covered or surrounded by expansion trunks positioned on the deck plate, and has the specific arrangement recited by applicant.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Daniel V. Venne whose telephone number is (571) 272-7947. The examiner can normally be reached between 7:30AM - 4:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Samuel J. Morano can be reached on (571) 272-6684. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Daniel V Venne/

11/4/2010

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3617